IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-6 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus in which a pixel area, including a plurality of pixels each having a photoelectric conversion portion and a common output portion configured to ~~for~~ sequentially amplify and output ~~amplifying and outputting~~ signals from the plurality of pixels included in ~~said~~ the pixel area, is ~~are~~ formed on a single semiconductor substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a power supply unit configured to effect ~~for effecting~~ power supply control of ~~said~~ the common output portion independently of control ~~on~~ of the power supply to ~~said~~ the pixel area; and

a control circuit configured to effect ~~for effecting~~ control to supply no power to ~~said~~ the common output portion in a predetermined period after starting photo-charge accumulation in ~~said~~ the photoelectric conversion portion and to supply power to ~~said~~ the common output portion before the end of a photo-charge accumulation period in ~~said~~ the photoelectric conversion portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control circuit variably controls the period during which no power is supplied to ~~said~~ the common output portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said power supply unit is formed on ~~said~~ the single semiconductor substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus in which a pixel area, including an arrangement of a plurality of pixels each having a photoelectric conversion portion and a common output portion configured to ~~for~~ sequentially amplify and output ~~amplifying and outputting~~ signals from the plurality of pixels included in ~~said~~ the pixel area, is ~~are~~ formed on a single semiconductor substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a power supply unit configured to supply ~~for supplying~~ a first power level and a second power level lower than ~~said~~ the first power level to ~~said~~ the common output portion; and

a control circuit configured to effect ~~for effecting~~ control to supply power of ~~said~~ the second power level to ~~said~~ the common output portion in a predetermined period after starting photo-charge accumulation in ~~said~~ the photoelectric conversion portion and supply ~~said~~ the first power level to ~~said~~ the common output portion before the end of a photo-charge accumulation period in ~~said~~ the photoelectric conversion portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control circuit variably controls the period during which the second power level is supplied to ~~said~~ the common output portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said power supply unit is formed on ~~said~~ the single semiconductor substrate.